

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A printing plate, comprising:

a substrate; and

a hydrophilic porous layer formed on a surface of said substrate, the hydrophilic porous layer including a plurality of small pits, imaging resin being deposited on selected parts of the surface of the hydrophilic porous layer.

Claim 2. (currently amended) A printing plate according to claim 1, wherein ~~said porous layer includes a large number of small pits~~, and an average diameter of said small pits and a thickness of said porous layer are adapted to allow the imaging resin to be deposited thereon with a required bonding strength and to be given with a required thickness.

Claim 3. (original) A printing plate according to claim 2, wherein the thickness of said porous layer is no less than five times the average diameter of said pits.

Claim 4. (currently amended) A printing plate according to claim 1, wherein ~~said porous layer includes a large number~~ the plurality of small pits ~~having~~ has an average diameter substantially smaller than a dot that is to be formed by the imaging resin deposited on a surface of said porous layer.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A printing plate according to claim 1, wherein ~~said porous layer includes a large number~~ the plurality of small pits

~~having~~ has an average diameter substantially ~~no~~ not more than one tenth of a dot that is to be formed by the imaging resin deposited on a surface of said porous layer.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A printing plate according to claim 1, wherein ~~said porous layer includes a large number~~ the plurality of small pits ~~having~~ has an average diameter substantially smaller than an average diameter of particles of oil-based printing ~~oil~~ ink.

Claim 7. (currently amended) A printing plate according to claim 1, wherein ~~said porous layer includes a large number~~ the plurality of small pits ~~having~~ has an average diameter of 0.03 μm to 1 μm .

Claim 8. (original) A printing plate according to claim 7, wherein said pits of said porous layer have an average depth of 5 μm to 10 μm .

Claim 9. (original) A printing plate according to claim 1, wherein said substrate comprises an aluminum base plate.

Claim 10. (original) A printing plate according to claim 9, wherein said porous layer consists of an anodized layer, said anodized layer being 0.1 μm or more in thickness.

Claim 11. (original) A printing plate according to claim 9, wherein said hydrophilic porous layer comprises an electrochemically etched layer.

Claim 12. (original) A printing plate according to claim 1, wherein said substrate comprises a plastic film, and an aluminum film laminated on a surface thereof.

Claim 13. (original) A printing plate according to claim 12, wherein said porous layer consists of an anodized layer, said anodized layer being 0.1 μm or more in thickness.

Claim 14. (original) A printing plate according to claim 12, wherein said hydrophilic porous layer comprises an electrochemically etched layer.

Claim 15. (previously presented) A printing plate according to claim 10, wherein said small pits are arranged at a density of 10×10^6 to 100×10^6 / mm^2 .

Claim 16. (previously presented) A printing plate according to claim 11, wherein said small pits are arranged at a density in the order of 1×10^6 / mm^2 .

Claim 17. (original) A printing plate according to claim 1, wherein said pits extend substantially perpendicularly to a major plane of said printing plate.

Claim 18. (original) A printing plate according to claim 1, further comprising a hydrophilic coating formed over the surface of said porous layer.

Claim 19. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

preparing a blank printing plate including a substrate and a hydrophilic porous layer formed on a surface of ~~said~~ the substrate, the hydrophilic porous layer including a plurality of small pits;

applying imaging resin in a substantially liquid form on selected parts of the surface of ~~said~~ the porous layer; and

curing ~~said~~ the imaging resin applied to ~~said~~ the porous layer.

Claim 20. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim 19, ~~wherein further comprising applying said the~~ imaging resin ~~is applied by using~~ an ink jet recording head.

Claim 21. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim 20, wherein ~~said porous layer includes a large number the~~ plurality of small pits ~~having~~ has an average diameter substantially smaller than a dot formed by ~~said the~~ imaging resin expelled from ~~said the~~ ink jet recording head.

Claim 22. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim 19, wherein ~~said the~~ imaging resin comprises ultraviolet curing resin, and the curing ~~step~~ comprises ~~a step of~~ radiating ultraviolet energy onto ~~said the~~ imaging resin.

Claim 23. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim 19, wherein ~~said the~~ imaging resin comprises thermosetting resin, and said curing ~~step~~ comprises ~~a step of~~ applying heat to ~~said the~~ imaging resin.

Claim 24. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim 19, wherein ~~said the~~ imaging resin is lipophilic.

Claim 25. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim 19, wherein ~~said the~~ imaging resin in liquid form has a viscosity in the range of 5cp to 30 cp at room temperature.

Claim 26. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim 19, wherein the imaging resin in liquid form contains 10 ~~weight~~ % weight or less of solvent.

Claim 27. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim 19, ~~wherein~~ further comprising preparing the said blank printing plate ~~is prepared~~ by electrolytically polishing a surface of a plate member essentially made of aluminum, and anodizing the surface thereof.

Claim 28. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim 19, ~~wherein~~ further comprising preparing the said blank printing plate ~~is prepared~~ by electrolytically polishing a surface of a plate member essentially made of aluminum, and electrochemically etching the surface thereof.

Claim 29. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim 19, ~~wherein~~ further comprising preparing the said blank printing plate ~~is prepared~~ by laminating an aluminum layer on a surface of a plastic film, and electrochemically etching ~~said~~ the aluminum layer.

Claim 30. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim 19, wherein ~~said porous layer is provided with a large number of pits,~~ an average spacing between adjacent pits being is smaller than a representative size of a dot or line of imaging resin deposited thereon.

Claim 31. (currently amended) A method for making a printing plate according to claim 19, wherein ~~said porous layer is provided with a large number of pits,~~ an average spacing between adjacent pits being is 2 to 3 μm .